

MGF 007-81

3 May 1981

Memorandum for : Director, FBIS  
Through : Chief, Operations Group  
Subject : Monthly Report-Gulf Bureau-April 1981

## I. GENERAL

No Objection Certificates (NOC's) for monitor-candidates [redacted] were received from the Bahraini STAT Government several weeks after the applications were submitted. Our contact in the Ministry of Information indicates that further delays can be expected on future NOC's as a result of personnel problems in the Department of Immigration. [redacted] STAT who knows Farsi, Dari, Pashto and Urdu, is now expected to report for duty in mid-May. Arabic candidate [redacted] will STAT not EOD until late July after his wife gives birth to their first child. We are still awaiting NOC's for Arabic candidate [redacted] who was recruited in Amman, and [redacted] whom STAT we expect to handle both Russian and Arabic.

## II. OPERATIONS

1. Secretary of State Haig's visit to Saudi Arabia in early April gave the bureau an opportunity to use its video-taping equipment again. A videotape of Secretary Haig's arrival in Riyadh and his talks with Saudi officials has been sent to Washington following a request from FCS.

2. Although its transmission schedule is totally unpredictable, Tehran Pars in English continues to provide Gulf Bureau with an opportunity to exploit this press agency. Reception here appears to be superior to London Bureau's, and we managed to file or fill a number of items during the month.

3. We have also been printing Paris AFP in English to determine whether or not our reception is good enough to allow us to assume coverage from Nicosia Bureau. We were able to print AFP with fair/good reception throughout the month. Reception is generally better during the day.

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4. Tehran International Service in Urdu has started carrying a rather interesting weekly feature called "World Liberation Movements," focusing on a particular liberation movement each week. Thus far, it has covered the Moro Liberation Front in the Philippines and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. We will continue filing these items as long as the radio carries the feature.

5. Further expanding our coverage of Gulf newspapers, we have added the weekly Doha GULF TIMES in English to our list. We have also been experimenting with various Indian and Pakistani papers in an attempt to cover publications not receiving attention at London or Bangkok bureaus. Most Indian and Pakistani papers are readily available in Manama with very little lag time. Efforts to locate Afghan publications locally have been fruitless to date.

### III. VISITS

1. [ ] editor of the BBC's SWB for the STAT Middle East and Africa, visited the bureau 8-10 April after concluding talks in Oman with Ministry of Information officials. In addition to receiving a briefing on Gulf's operations and a quick tour of Bahrain, [ ] was guest of honor at STAT dinner party hosted by the chief. John indicated he was favorably impressed by the bureau's editorial operation and life in Bahrain generally.

2. [ ] deputy chief of Nicosia Bureau, and STAT family visited Bahrain during the month on R&R. The [ ] STAT also stopped off in Jordan before returning to Cyprus.

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STAT

DEPUTY CHIEF ✓